

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3016

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 5925

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, TW

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ELECT SOMOZA'S ROC VISIT

REF: TAIPEI 5719 OF SEPT. 12

FOR AMBASSADOR SHELTON FROM AMBASSADOR UNGER

1. IN ADDITION TO FORTHCOMING VISIT TO NICARAGUA OF GEN. LAI WHICH WE MENTIONED REFTTEL, YOU ARE PROBABLY ALSO AWARE THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT SOMOZA CONCLUDED HIS ONE-WEEK STAY HERE SEPT. 21. WE ARE SETTING FORTH IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM A REVIEW OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS AND THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE VISIT BUT I WANTED TO PASS ON ONE SPECIFIC POINT HE RAISED WITH ME WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST. SOMOZA REFERRED TO THE BRIEFING HE HAD BEEN GIVEN ON TAIWAN LAND REFORM DURING HIS 1961 VISIT HERE AND HE WONDERED HOW WE ASSESSED THAT PROGRAM AND WHAT HAD HAPPENED SINCE HIS LAST VISIT. HE ADDED THAT HIS INTEREST RELATED TO HIS INTENTION TO INITIATE A SIGNIFICANT LAND REFORM IN NICARAGUA, PRESUMABLY ONCE HE ASSUMES OFFICE. WE DID PROVIDE HIM WITH SOME MATERIAL JOINTLY WITH THE CHINESE OFFICIALS CONCERNED AND HE PROBABLY ALSO RECEIVED PERTINENT BRIEFINGS IN THE COURSE OF HIS TRAVELS AROUND THE ISLAND. IN GENERAL THE REFORM HAS BEEN REGARDED AS A SUCCESS, INCIDENTALLY. WHAT GOES ON
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IN NICARAGUA TODAY ON LAND REFORM AND HOW SERIOUS

SOMOZA'S INTENTIONS MAY BE, ETC., I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT
BUT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT FIND HIS COMMENT INTERESTING.
UNGER

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NNN

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